GOVERNMENT MUSEUM, CHENNAI

ARTEFACTS

NEWS LETTER April 2009 - March 2010

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM CHENNAI

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Published by

Dr.T.S.Sridhar IAS.,

Principal Secretary/Commissioner of Museums,

Government Museum, Chennai-600 008

ARTEFACTS

NEWS LETTER APRIL 2009 – MARCH 2010

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Message from the Commissioner...

Dr.T.S.Sridhar IAS.
Principal Secretary/
Commissioner of Museums

The Government Museum, Chnnai, one of the best Museums in the country was established in 1851. It is an institution with great reputation for its rich repository of South Indian Bronzes, prehistoric and protohistoric antiquities, particularly those of Robert Bruce Foote collections, Adichanallur megalithic collections and Buddhist, Jain and Hindu sculptures. Of these, the Amaravati collection with Buddhist sculptures are noteworthy. Large collections of rare zoological and botanical specimens add to the magnificence of Museum and make it inclusive. The Bronze Gallery consisting of very rare collection is a major attraction for foreign tourists.

The Chennai Museum and the District Museums act as knowledge centers for the public and students. There are 20 District Museums located in Pudukottai, Salem, Madurai, Trichy, Vellore, Erode, Cuddalore, Ooty, Coimbatore, Kanyakumari, Krishnagiri, Tirunelveli, Sivagangai, Tiruvarur, Palani, Nagappattinam, Kanchipuram, Ramanathapuram, Karur and Virudhunagar. Except the one at Pudukottai, which has been in existence from the time of the erstwhile Pudukottai State, all others are of recent origin. This year (2009-10) the District Museums at Erode, Ramanathapuram and Coimbatore were shifted to more spacious buildings to suit the convenience of the visitors.

Several Developmental works and Educational activities have been initiated and carried out successfully during the year. It gives me immense satisfaction that the Museum Newsletter is being published after a gap of several years. I am sure it will help scholars and Institutions to keep abreast of the several activities of the Government Museum, Chennai.

MUSEUM FACILITIES

MUSEUM THEATRE
Used for Academic-cum-Professional meetings, Seminars and cultural performances.

CENTENARY EXHIBITION HALL
Exhibition and Lectures are conducted here.

CONFERENCE HALL
For Meetings, Workshops and Lectures.

MUSEUM ACTIVITY CENTRE
Craft workshops and Children's activities are conducted here.

EXHIBITIONS

EXHIBITION ON "EARTH DAY 2009"

To save the Earth from global warming and other disasters to create awareness among the public, a special exhibition was organized in connection with the **"EARTH DAY - 2009".** The aim of the exhibition was to create awareness on the environmental issues, to understand the need for conservation and management of renewable and non-renewable resources (water, soil, air, forests, coal, petroleum, minerals, etc.,) and to know the types of disaster management and their mitigations.

On April 22nd 2009, Thiru **K.S.Sripathi, I.A.S.,** *Chief Secretary to the Government, Government of Tamilnadu* inaugurated the Special Exhibition at the Centenary Exhibition Hall and took part in the "Go-organic Event".

PAINTING EXHIBITION ON "GLOBAL WARMING"

A Painting Exhibition on **"Global Warming"** by Eminent Artists of India. was held from 25.5.2009 to 29.5.2009 at the Centenary Exhibition Hall in collaboration with Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai. Thiru **Rm.Palaniappan**, *Regional Secretary, Lalit Kala Akademi, Chennai* inaugurated the function. The exhibition highlighted thirteen choice paintings by eleven Artists. The theme of the exhibition was to create awareness, through the paintings, among the public about the environmental degradation due to Global Warming.

EXHIBITION ON "RARE MANUSCRIPTS"

An Exhibition on **"Rare Manuscripts"** was organized for a week starting from 26.6.2009 by the Chemical Conservation Section at the C.E.Hall. Thirty Rare Manuscripts in different shapes and sizes, made of palm-leaf, birch bark, cloth and paper with beautiful illustrations and line drawings, some even written with golden letters were exhibited. These manuscripts were in Tamil, Telugu, Pali, Oriya, Kannada, Sanskrit, Burmese, Sinhalese, and Persian on various subjects such as astrology, religion, medicine, literature. Photographs and charts depicting different types of damages to the manuscripts and various methods to prevent them were also exhibited. It was inaugurated by the *Hon'ble Minister for School Education and Archaeology,* **Thiru. Thangam Thennarasu.**

EXHIBITIONS

EXHIBITION ON "INTERESTING MOLLUSCS"

An Exhibition on **'Interesting Molluscs'** was inaugurated by **Thiru. Shambhu Kallolikar,I.A.S.**, Commissioner of Fisheries, Government of Tamilnadu and the function was presided by Dr.T.S.Sridhar,I.A.S., Principal Secretary/Commissioner of Museums, Government of Tamilnadu at the Centenary Exhibition Hall of Government Museum, Chennai on 23.07.2009

EXHIBITION ON "MADRAS THROUGH THE AGES"

An Exhibition on **'Madras Day'** was held on 21.08.2009 at 4.00 pm, at the Centenary Exhibition Hall. **Thiru S. Muthiah,** *Editor, Madras Musings and Chronicler of Madras* declared open the Exhibition and released the Pamphlet.

First Madrasian Paleoliths recovered from Pallavaram and Attirampakkam by Foote & his friend Mr. King respectively during 1863, which really started the prehistoric research in India; Megalithic Pottery Remains unearthed from the Kilpauk excavations; the Photographs of Yesteryear Madras and Pen & Ink drawings of Madras drawn by renowned artist (Late) **Thiru S.S. Manian** with descriptive labels; photographic illustrations about the sweeping changes of Government Museum, Chennai; the Model of the Ship S.S. Irwin operated between Danuskodi & Thalaimannar Pier in 1930; the First Radio Transmitter used in India by the Madras Presidency Radio Club in 1924 & the Corporation of Madras from 1st April 1930 to 15th June 1938; the Mini Sheet - first of its kind issued by the Department of Post on the Government Museum, Chennai in connection with its 151st Year Celebrations held in 2002 and the First Day Covers and Folders on important buildings and personalities of Chennai were displayed suitably in this exhibition.

EXHIBITION ON " VIJAYANAGARA COINS "

An Exhibition on **'Vijayanagara Coins'** was conducted at the Centenary Exhibition Hall from 6th to 12th August 2009. In this Exhibition, 'Vijayanagara Coinage' was highlighted with support exhibits of estampages of Vijayanagar inscriptions and Copper Plate Grants of Emperor Krishnadeva Raya.

EXHIBITIONS

EXHIBITION ON "COPPER PLATES"

An Exhibition on **'Copper Plates'** was conducted from 4th October to 2nd November, 2009 at the Centenary Exhibition Hall. It was inaugurated by the *Hon'ble Minister for School Education and Archaeology,* **Thiru. Thangam Thennarasu.**

EXHIBITION ON "SNAKES"

An exhibition on **"Snakes"** was organized on 2.2.2010 in which different varieties of poisonous and non-poisonous snakes were exhibited in the form of models, wet and dry preserved specimens, and photographs. It was inaugurated by **Mr.R.Sundararaju I.F.S.,** *Chief conservator of Forests, Government of Tamilnadu.*

EXHIBITION ON "TRIBAL CREATIVITIES OF THE NILGIRIS"

A Thematic Exhibition on **'Tribal Creativities of the Nilgiris'** was conducted from 17.12.2009 to 23.12.2009 at the Centenary Exhibition Hall. **Thiru U. Ravindran, I.F.S.,** *Director, Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tamilnadu* inaugurated the exhibition.

EXHIBITIONS

EXHIBITION ON "EXPRESSIONS IN STONE"

An Exhibition on **'Expressions in Stones'** was inaugurated by **Dr. Vasudevan,** *Deputy Director General of Geological of Survey of India (Retd.),* on 23.02.2010. Different varieties of rocks, stone sculptures, carvings and stone artefacts displayed here attracted the visitor's attention.

EXHIBITION ON "SILVER PUNCH MARKED COINS"

An Exhibition on **"Silver Punch-Marked Coins from Vaigainallur Village, Kulithalai Taluk of Karur District"** was inaugurated by **Thiru. N. Harinarayana,** *Former Director of Museums* on 08.03.2010. A special bulletin was released by the Principal Secretary/Commissioner of Museums on this occasion.

EXHIBITION ON "WONDERFUL WORLD OF MUSHROOMS"

An Exhibition on **"Mushrooms"** was conducted on 10.3.2010. The highlight of the exhibition was the collection of South Indian Mushrooms of both edible and poisonous varieties. It was inaugurated by **Dr. Subramanian**, Former Director, the Centre of Advanced Studies in Botany, University of Madras.

LECTURES ORGANIZED AT THE MUSEUM

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LECTURES ORGANIZED AT THE MUSEUM

1. **Dr. S.R. Ramanan**, *Director, Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai* delivered the special lecture, on **"Global Warming"** on 22.4.2009 at the Museum Theatre.
2. A Special Lecture on **"Tsunami - Hazard Management"** was organsied by Ms.R.D.Thulasi Brinda, Curator, Geology Section. **Dr. V. Ram Mohan,** *Director, Centre for Natural Hazards and Disaster Studies, University of Madras* delivered the lecture on 27.4.2009.
3. **Prof. P. Kalidoss**, *Professor and Head, Department of Chemistry, Presidency College, Chennai* delivered a Special Lecture on **"Safeguarding the Quality of Environment"** which was organised by Ms.J.M.Gandhimathi, Curator, Chemical Conservation Section on 4.5.2009.
4. A Special Lecture **on "Science of Climate Change"** was delivered on 7.5.2009 by **Dr. R. Annamalai, IFS.,** *Director, Directorate of Environment, Chennai.*
5. The Tourism Endowment Lecture on **"Man & Mushroom"** was organized by Ms.M.N.Pushpa, Curator, Botany Section and Thiru.G.Kalathy, Curator, Education Section, **Dr. V. Kaviyarasan**, *Senior Lecturer, Centre for Advanced Studiesin Botany, University of Madras, Chennai* delivered the Endowment Lecture at 11.00 am at the Centenary Exhibition Hall on 7.5.2009.
6. **"Vijayanagar Coins",** a Special Lecture by **Dr.Chitra Madhavan** was organized by Mr.N.Sundarajan, Curator, Numismatics Section on 6.8.2009
7. International Women's Association (IWA) - Endowment Lecture was organised by Thiru G. Kalathi, Curator, Education Section at the Government Museum, Chennai on 10th September 2009, at the Museum Theatre. **Dr.Gillian Juleff**, *Professor, Department of Archaeology, University of Exeter, United Kingdom* delivered the endowment lecture on **"Early Metallurgical Developments in Sri Lanka and wider Asian Technological Traditions"**.
8. Sri Narayana Guruviah Endowment Lecture was arranged by Thiru G. Kalathy, Curator, Education Section **Dr. Sudhakar**, *Associate Professor, Department of Hisotry, Loyola College, Chennai* delivered a lecture on **"Landmark in the Political History of Chennai"** on 6.1.2010
9. Rao Bahadur Vemuru Ranganatham Chetty Endowment Lecture was arranged by Thiru G. Kalathy, Curator, Education Section on 11.01.2010. **Ms. Sanchita Balachandran**, *Conservator and Fulbright Scholar, Baltimore, USA.*, delivered a lecture **on "Glorious Icons: How Bronze Images Transformed the Mission of the Government Museum, Chennai"**.
10. A Special Lecture was organized by Thiru G. Kalathi, Curator, Education Section on 02-03-2010. **Dr. Edna Carter Southard**, *Curator & Professor, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, USA* delivered the lecture on **"Museums and Memories – National Museum and Collective Memories"** in the presence of **Mr.Andrew Simkin,** *USA Consulate General.*
11. Lecture on **"Mushrooms"** was delivered by **Dr. Subramanian**, *Former Director, Centre for Advanced Studies in Botany, University of Madras* on 10.03.2010 at the Government Museum, Chennai. The lecture was organized by Ms.M.N.Pushpa, Curator, Botany Section.

LECTURES BY CURATORS

A lecture on "E-Governance and its implementation" was delivered by **Mr. K.Sekar,** Curator, Children's Museum – 25.9.2009

Lecture on the "Importance of plants and the need for preservation" and about the Botany Galleries was delivered to the students of Venkateswara Teacher Training Institue, Pondicherry by **Ms. M.N.Pushpa,** *Curator, Botany Section* on 18.11.2009.

The following Curators were invited by the State Department of Archaeology to give lectures in the Workshop on "Archaeology and Epigraphy"

Mr.R.Balasubramanian, Curator, Archaeology Section – "Archaeology" - 29.12.2009

Dr.C.Maheswaran, Curator, Anthropology Section- "Anthropology" - 31.12.2009.

Ms.J.M.Gandhimathi, Curator, Chemical Conservation Section – "Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage" – 2.1.2010

LECTURES BY THE COMMISSIONER AND THE CURATOR

On 10.02.2010 **Dr.T.S.Sridhar I.A.S.,** *Principal Secretary / Commissioner of Museums,* attended the Annual Conference of the Museums Association of India on "Museum, Heritage and Tourism" held at Khajuraho and presented a paper on "Museums: A Link Between Cultural Heritage and the Tourism Industry"

Ms.J.M.Gandhimathi, *Curator, Chemical Conservation Section* and **Ms.R.D.Thulasi Brinda**, *Curator, Geology Section* participated and presented papers titled "Handling of Manuscripts" and "Problems of Manuscripts and Documents Conservation" respectively at the National Seminar on Conservation of Books and Manuscripts organized by the Tanjavur Saraswathi Mahal Library from 4th to 6th April 2009.

26.08.2009 - inspected the old Indian and Foreign Coins received at Sri Vari Hundi collections of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam,Andhra Pradesh.

04.09.2009 - presented Museums Proposals to the Joint Secretary (Museums) at New Delhi, in connection with Modernisation of Government Museum, Chennai .

09.09.2009 - attended the General Body Meeting of the Madurai Gandhi Memorial Museum held at Madurai.

15.09.2009 - attended the Anna Centenary Celebrations at Kanchipuram by handing over memorabilia conserved by the Department of Museums. A relevant brochure was also released on that occasion.

06.10.2009 - presided over the Special Exhibition on **"Nature and Environment"** held at the District Museum of Virudhunagar also reviewed the various schemes at Virudhunagar in the capacity of Monitoring Officer.

10.10.2009 - inaugurated the Seminar on **"History of *Thenpennai* Basin of Krishnagiri District"** organised by the District Collector of Krishnagiri. He also inspected the District Museum, Krishnagiri.

13.10.2009 - presided over the **Postal Week Celebrations & Philately Day, 2009** conducted at Chennai for the release of Special Cover on 500th Anniversary of Coronation of the Emperor Krishnadeva Raya. *The Post Master General* ***Thiru*.S.K.Chakrabarti** released the First Day Cover.

02.11.2009 - attended the Workshop held at the Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts, National Mission for Manuscripts, New Delhi.

01.12.2009 - attended the inauguration of the Refurbished District Museum of Erode at the new premises.

18.12.2009 - presided over the Valedictory Function of **"Preservation of Zoological Specimens"** at the Government Museum, Sivagangai. The Exhibition was inaugurated by ***Thiru*.Mahesan Kasinathan,I.A.S.,** Collector, Sivaganga District.

09.02.2010 - Attended the **National Workshop on Built Heritage, Sites and Antiquities** at the National Mission for Monuments and Antiquities held at New Delhi.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS AND CHILDREN

In connection with **Earth Day** celebrations, 'On the spot' drawing and slogan competitions were conducted on 23.4.2009 and prizes were distributed to the winners on the Valedictory Day.

"Go-organic" - a special event to save earth from Pollution, Global warming and other disasters due to human activities" was conducted, in which VIPs, students and public registered their support by implanting their palm-prints in various organic colours on a banner.

'International Museum Day' was celebrated on 18th May 2009 at the Centenary Exhibition Hall at the Government Museum, Chennai. **Dr. V. Irai Anbu, I.A.S.,** *Secretary to the Government, Tourism and Culture Department, Government of Tamilnadu* inaugurated the **"Know Your Museum Programme"** for students to kindle awareness and acquire knowledge about the museum artefacts. Special lectures and Yoga classes were conducted for students. Curators of all the Sections described the intricacies of their respective Sections to the students through power point presentations and gallery visits.

The Plant Preservation Technique and Plant Modelling Workshop was conducted for (Final Year) B.Sc., Plant Biology and Plant Bio Technology Students of the Women's Christian College from 9.11.2009 to 11.11.2009. The students were given hands - on training in the field of Preservation of Plants on both Dry (Herbarium Technique) and Wet methods. Modelling of plants out of clay, plaster of paris, wax, and fiber were demonstrated

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS AND CHILDREN

CHILDRENS DAY CELEBRATIONS – NOVEMBER 2009

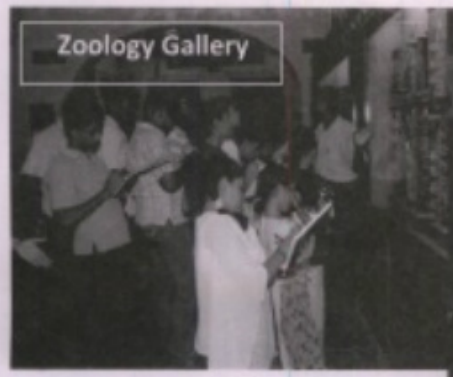
The Government Museum, Chennai renders yeoman service by conducting multifarious educational activities with the aim of imparting informal education to the visitors of all walks of life. As part of its educational activities, **Children's Day Celebrations-2009** was observed wherein painting competition and oratorical competition were conducted to the school children to bring out their hidden talents. The winners were given prizes and merit certificates on 14th November 2009 at the Children's Day Celebrations held at the Museum Theatre.

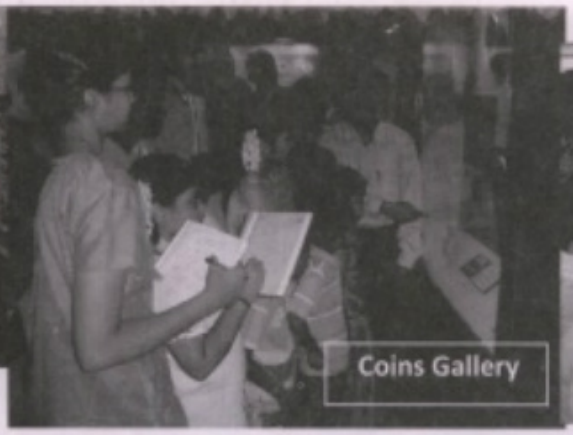
In this connection a Special Exhibition of Paintings drawn in the competition was organized for public view. A brochure highlighting the events and winners was released on this occasion.

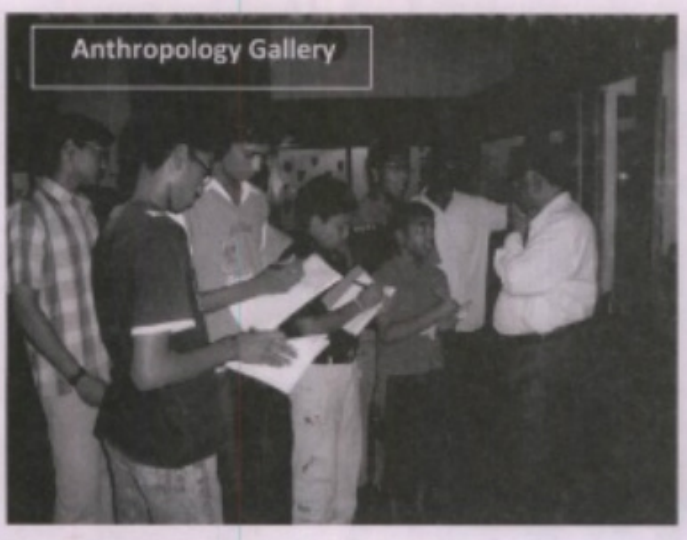
To make the celebrations memorable and entertaining a **Puppet Show** was staged by ***Kalaimamani* S.Manickavasakam** troupe, under the co-sponsorship of South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur. A special Government Order issued by the Government of Tamilnadu, permitting free entry to Museums for children below 12 years, benefited thousands of Children both in Chennai and 20 districts on that day.

Dr. T.S. Sridhar, I.A.S., *Principal Secretary/ Commissioner of Museums* presided over the function. Chief Guest **Dr. P. Perumalsami,** *Director of School Education, Chennai* distributed the prizes and certificates to the winners of competitions. **Tmt. Harini Sridhar, M.Sc.,** *Consultant & Trainer of Personality Development, Chennai* declared open the Special Exhibition on Paintings and felicitated on this occasion. The Tamilnadu Milk Producers Limited (Aavin) sponsored hot milk to the children.

GALLERY TALKS







NATURE WALKS

Regular Nature walk programs are conducted for Public by the Curator, Botany Section inside the Museum campus

VISIT OF THE SECRETARY , MINISTRY OF CULTURE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

***Thiru.* Jawhar Sircar I.A.S.,** *Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Culture* visited the Museum on 08.09.2009 A Presentation-cum-discussion session with him was organized by Dr.T.S.Sridhar IAS, Principal Secretary / Commissioner of Museums with the Curators. A number of suggestions on improvements to the galleries were mooted, under the Museum Reforms programme to Upgrade the Metro Museums of India.

VISIT OF THE HON'BLE MINISTER, SINGAPORE

Dr. Balaji Sadasivan , *Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Singapore* was received by Dr.T.S.Sridhar I.A.S, *Principal Secretary / Commissioner of Museums.* He was accompanied to the Bronze Gallery and Contemporary Art Gallery on 06.09.2009 at the Government Museum, Chennai.

VISIT OF THE GOVERNOR, RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Dr. D. Subba Rao, *Governor, Reserve Bank of India* visited the Pavilion of RBI erected at the Museum premises in connection with the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Reserve Bank of India on 1.2.2010.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

ANTHROPOLOGY
Gold Rings (6 nos), Silver ornaments, two revolvers

ARCHAEOLOGY
Bronzes from Government Museums at Salem, Erode, Coimbatore, Krishnagiri, Palani and Kanchipuram were transferred to Government Museum, Chennai.

NUMISMATICS AND PHILATELY
Eleven First Day Covers including one commemorating the 500th Coronation of KrishnaDeva Raya were received from the Department of Posts.

Gold coins from Pudukottai Museum and 43 Indo-British silver coins from Puttur village, Kulithalali Taluk, Karur District were added to the collections.

ZOOLOGY
A Common Kite (*Milvus migrays govinda*) was stuffed by the Taxidermists.

BOTANY
Thirty vascular plants were collected and added as Herbarium specimens.

GEOLOGY
Received 30 specimens of rocks, minerals and fossils as gift from Dr. Sukumaran, Professor and Head of the Department of Geology, Presidency College, Chennai. Four specimens (1 marble, 1 limestone and 2 bricks) were collected by the Curator and included in the Museum collection.

Rocks, minerals and fossils

Indo British silver coins

Silver punch marked coins

MUSEUM DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES

TWELFTH FINANCE COMMISSION WORKS

- Installation of HT Transformer in Government Museum, Chennai at a cost of Rs.72.00 lakhs has been completed.
- Refurbishment of the following Galleries were undertaken by the Public Works Department:
  - Hindu Sculpture Gallery – Rs.55.00 lakhs.
  - Jain Gallery – Rs.20.00 lakhs.
  - Fish Gallery – Rs.15.00 lakhs.
  - Main Building – Rs.93.00 Lakhs.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA – STATE SHARED SCHEMES

- The Refurbishment of Amaravati Gallery at a total cost of Rs.62.00 lakhs of which the GOI share is Rs.50.00 lakhs and State share is Rs.12.50 lakhs (75:25).
- During 2008-2009, under the shared schemes, a sum of Rs.42.00 lakhs has been received and the following works were completed:
  - Reprint of Publications.
  - Purchase of books for Museum Library.
  - Purchase of Security equipments.

PROMOTION AND STRENGTHENING OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL MUSEUMS SCHEME

- Under this Scheme, the Government of India has sanctioned a sum of Rs.8.50 crores and Rs.5.50 crores was received as the first installment. From this grant the following works will be taken up during this year (2010-2011):
  - Construction of the balance portion of the Heritage compound wall of the Museum.
  - Renovation of the Centenary Exhibition Hall.
  - Renovation of the Rock and Cave Art Gallery.
  - Providing of facilities to the differently enabled.
  - Construction of Audio-Visual Room and Conference Hall.
  - Provision of Generators for the Museum Galleries.

PART II SCHEMES 2009-2010

In view of the Centenary Celebrations of Pudukkottai District Museum, Rs.80.00 lakhs was sanctioned for the year 2009-2010 and the following works have been taken up by the Public works department:

1. Construction of Audio – visual room.
2. Replacement of Madras terraced roofs of some of the galleries into R.C.C.
3. Modernization of Skeleton Gallery and Birds Gallery.
4. Installation of Closed circuit television network to strengthen the security.

PART II SCHEMES 2010-2011

The following schemes at a cost of Rs.27.00 lakhs have been approved by the State Planning Commission:

1. Modernization of the Mammal Gallery.
2. Panelling work in the Contemporary Art Gallery.
3. Landscaping and development of the Garden.
4. Construction of Sculpture Garden in the Government Museum,Trichy .
5. Modernization of existing Galleries and construction of modern showcases in the Government Museum, Virudhunagar .
6. Project for the conservation of South Indian Bronzes in the Collection of the Department of Museums.
7. Bringing out New publications.

REFURBISHED COINS GALLERY

The Refurbished Coins Gallery with Air-condition facility was declared open by **Dr. V. Irai Anbu, I.A.S.,** *Secretary to the Government, Tourism and Culture Department, Government of Tamilnadu* on 18th May 2009, synchronizing with the International Museum Day Celebrations, 2009.

Coins of various kingdoms issued on several occasions - from Punch-marked to present day coins depicting 2,500 years of Indian history - are in display at the Refurbished Coins Gallery. The Coins Gallery showcases interesting features like Dynastical Coins, Swedish Plate Money, Coin Counting Tray and Pre-Independence, Post-Independence Paper Currencies. A 1000 Rupees Note depicting Thanjavur Big Temple and a commemorative 1 Rupee Coin with Thiruvalluvar motif are the highlights of the Gallery.

CONSERVATION AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The Government Museum, Chennai is one of the oldest and finest Museums in India and the first State Museum to be equipped with a scientific Conservation Laboratory (CCRL)way back in 1930. Apart from taking care of the conservation of Museum objects, it has helped various other Institutions such as Archaeological Survey of India, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department, Raj Bhavan, University of Madras, Government Eye Hospital, Madras High Court, Fort Museum, etc. Several private institutions and non-governmental organizations approach this Laboratory for conservation of their collections and for imparting training to their staff. Government Museum Chennai is extending its conservation consultancy services to individuals also at very nominal costs and thereby performing its moral duty of preserving the cultural heritage objects of the country wherever they are.

CONSERVATION OF MUSEUM OBJECTS

During the period under review the following objects received from various sections of **Government Museum, Chennai,** were given conservation treatment and returned.

- Archaeology - 42 wood carvings, 68 bronzes , Karanthai and Thiruvalangadu copper plates, 20 stone sculptures in Sculpture garden, 12 Terracotta and Cleaning of Amaravati Lime stone sculptures in the gallery.
- Art Section – 12 Tanjore Paintings, 4 Oil Paintings, 13 water colours, 24 Lithographs, three Ravi Varma Prints, 6 silver ornaments and 9 textiles.
- Anthropology – 11 leather puppets, 7 glove puppets, 2 ethnology objects and 44 weapons including swords, guns, axes and daggers.
- Numismatics – 373 silver punch marked coins,870 copper coins, 10 Indo-British silver coins, 95 lead coins, one Swedish plate money and a wooden coin counting tray.
- Fumigation of 350 Archival Paper documents from Record room.

At District Government Museums

- 20 Bronzes and 30 wood carvings were conserved at Pudukkottai Government Museum.
- 25 wood carvings 18 leather puppets, 32 bronzes, 15 bundles of palm-leaf manuscripts were conserved at Govt Museum, Madurai.
- 11 stone sculptures, 3 leather puppets, 6 Iron objects, 17 vessels, 8 Musical instruments, 8 metalware, one palm-leaf bundle and 10 woodcarvings were conserved at Government Museum, Virudhunagar.
- 17 bronzes and 2 leather puppets at Government Museum, Tiruvarur.
- 20 wood carvings, 25 stone sculptures, one Iron cannon and 2 Leather puppets at Government Museum,Kanyakumari.
- 25 stone sculptures at Government Museum, Tirunelveli.

CONSERVATION AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES

CONSERVATION OF OBJECTS FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES

- One oil painting titled "*Amir Ul Umara*" from Raj Bhavan, Guindy.
- Textiles, books, documents, water colour paintings, leather bags,personal belongings,furniture and photographs of Arignar Annadurai, Ex-Chief Minister of Tamilnadu were conserved by the team at his Memorial in kanchipuram.
- Two Vintage Photo Albums of the III Battalion, Rajputana Rifles, Andaman were conserved
- One Kalamkari painting, one water colour and a black and white photograph belonging to Mrs.Harini Sridhar were conserved.
- 2 bundles of Palm-leaf manuscripts from Mr. Rajagopal, Ex-Director, SPIC, Chennai was conserved.

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM MANUSCRIPT CONSERVATION CENTRE (GM-MCC)

The Conservation and Research Laboratory has been approved by the National Mission for Manuscripts, New Delhi, to act as Manuscript Conservation Centre in the state. It is responsible for the conservation of manuscripts in various repositories, libraries, archives, religious mutts and private organisations.The centre, apart from giving conservation treatment, regularly organizes awareness exhibitions, rallies, trainings and workshops on preventive and curative conservation.

The staff of GM-MCC widely travelled around the State and preserved 853 bundles (74,809 folios) of Palm-leaf and Paper manuscripts in various Institutions like the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Chennai, Government Museums at Madurai, Erode, Krishnagiri and Chennai apart from storage reorganization at private repositories and religious mutts.

Demonstration of Palm-leaf conservation

STAFF TRAINING INITIATIVES

Administrative and Curative staff were sent to ELCOT, in batches to undergo training in office automation and computer literacy

Ms.J.M.Gandhimathi, Curator, Chemical Conservation and Research laboratory was selected to undergo International training on Conservation of sound and Image Collections (**SOIMA** 2009), organized by **ICCROM** at New Delhi from 16th November to 11th December 2009. She was one among the 22 participants from different countries of the world. "This course was very useful in learning about the latest trends and practices for conserving the intangible aspects of our Cultural Heritage. This is an emerging field which requires much research work as the number of professionals involved is less. I had opportunity to interact with Archivists, Technicians, conservators and teachers from leading organizations around the world".

Ms.J.M.Gandhimathi also participated in the five days workshop on "Conservation of illustrated Manuscripts" at National Museum, New Delhi (15th to 19th march 2010)

CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF MUSEUM OBJECTS – Training given to college students by the Conservation Section and Research Laboratory (CCRL) of the Museum during 2009-10.

- Conservation of stone sculptures and metalware – 25 students from various colleges – Government Museum, Kanyakumari – 29.7.2009
- Conservation of wood carvings – 29 students from Stella Maris college, Chennai – CCRL – 17.8.2009-25.8.2009
- Conservation of bronzes and wood carvings – H.H.Raja Government College – Government Museum, Pudukottai – 18th to 21st Aug 2009.
- Conservation of bronzes, musical instruments, leather puppets, palm-leaf manuscripts and wood carvings – 19 students from 7 colleges in Madurai - Government Museum, Madurai – 17th and 18th Nov 2009.
- Conservation of stone sculptures, musical instruments, metalware, cannons and palm-leaf manuscripts – Government Arts college students – Government Museum, Krishnagiri – 7th and 8th Jan 2010
- Conservation of coins, wood carvings, leather puppets and stone sculptures – 20 students from Vellalar college – Government Museum, Erode – 1.3.2010 to 2.3.2010.
- Seven Final year B.F.A students from Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai, underwent Three months internship training in Art Conservation at CCRL from Dec 2009 to Mar 2010.

35th Refresher Course on CARE OF MUSEUM OBJECTS with special reference to Manuscripts (COMO-2009)

In order to disseminate knowledge about the basic measures to be taken for the preservation of objects of art and other antiquities, the Refresher Course on Care of Museum Objects was started in 1974. For the past five years, the refresher course on **"Care Of Museum Objects"** has been restructured to train Museum personnel, Curators, Librarians and Custodians of cultural properties, in taking care of Manuscripts and Archival documents also. The 35th Refresher Course on Care of Museum Objects with special reference to Manuscripts was conducted at the Chemical Conservation & Research Laboratory from 1st to 30th of June 2009. Eight participants from Tamilnadu, Kerala and West Bengal, belonging to departments of Archaeology, Museums, Religious Mutt, underwent the training. The course was intensive in nature comprising of Lectures and practical sessions and field visits to various Institutions in Chennai and Kanchipuram. The Valedictory function was held at the Centenary Exhibition Hall on 30.6.2009. **Dr.T.S.Sridhar,I.A.S.,** *Principal Secretary/Commissioner of Museums,* delivered the Valedictory Address and distributed the certificates to the participants.

Stone sculptures in the Sculpture Garden are given Chemical treatment by the Participants

Demonstration of Estampage of Inscriptions at the Department of Archaeology.

Field visits to Theosophical Society Library, Central Leather Research Institute, Adyar and Kanchipuram

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

The following Publications and Research projects were undertaken by the Museum during the period 2009-10.

Ms.Donna Strahan, *Conservator, Metropolitan Museum of Art, USA* and her student Ms. Ariel, visited the Conservation Laboratory of the Museum and they were provided requisite information regarding the metallography and iconiography of buddhist bronzes in our collections.

Ms.Sanchitha Balachandran, *Conservtor in Baltimore, USA and a Fulbright scholar*, did her six month project work on the History of conservation of Bronze sculptures at Government Museum, Chennai.

Financial assistance of Rs.2.15 lakhs towards Research project on Adichanallur prehistoric antiquities was granted by Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai to **Dr.C. Maheswaran,** Curator (Anthropology Section) of the Government Museum, Chennai.

Ms.Bessie Cecil, Research scholar registered with Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory of this Museum was awarded Ph.D Degree for her work on *"Cotton Brocade of Kodali karuppur – Charecterization and conservation-a study"*

Release of Vaigainallur coins Bulletin

- Earth Day - Brochure
- Madras Day – Multipage folder
- Vaigainallur silver punch marked coins - Special Bulletin.
- Childrens Day – Pamphlet
- Copper Plate Collection – Brochure
- 'Bronze Casting Techniques' and 'Conservation of Bronzes' – Brochures
- Plant Modelling Techniques – Brochure
- Heritage of Erode District – Pamphlet
- Tribal Creativities of Nilgiris – Brochure
- Man and Mushroom – Special Bulletin
- Early Metallurgical Developments in Sri Lanka and Wider Asian Technological Traditions - Special Bulletin
- Landmark in Political evolution of Chennai – Bulletin
- Gulf of Mannar – Biosphere reserve – Pamphlet
- Interesting Molluscs – Pamphlet
- Snakes – Pamphlet

A brochure on the **'Conservation of objects at Arignar Anna's Memorial, Kanchipuram'** was released by *Thiru.***T.M.Anbarasu,** *Hon'ble Minister for Labour, Government of Tamilnadu*, in the presence of *Thiru.***Santhosh.K.Misra.I.A.S.,** Collector of Kanchipuram and **Dr.T.S.Sridhar IAS,** on 15.9.2009 during the centenary celebrations of Arignar Anna.

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

Location and Parking:

• Museum is located at Egmore, the heart of Chennai city, in a sprawling ground of 16.14 acres.

• The other landmarks are the Government Hospital for Women on the left and the Co-optex Handloom Showroom on the right

• Ample parking space is available inside the campus

Transport:

1 Km from Egmore RailwayS tation, 4 Km from Central Railway Station, 18-Km from Indira Gandhi International Airport, Chennai. Well connected by State transport buses, taxis and auto rikshaws.

Working Hours and Holidays:

9.30 AM to 5.00 PM on all day**except Fridays** and **3 National Holidays** (Gandhi Jayanthi, Independence Day and Republic Day)

Launch of attractively printed Entrance tickets,*(designed by Ms.J.M.Gandhimathi, Curator, CCRL)* in March 2010, for International Visitors (*which can be used as Bookmarks*) was widely appreciated.

VISITORS DURING 2009-10

Adults –	1,99,570
Children –	3,44,482
Students –	50,794
Non-Indian Adults –	12,807
Non-Indian Children –	149
Non-Indian Students -	1093
TOTAL –	6,08,895
Free Visitors –	20,000

TICKETS

Adults – Rs 15/-

Children – Rs 10/-

Students – Rs 5/-

Non-Indian Adults – Rs 250/-

Non-Indian Children – Rs 125/-

Non-Indian Students – Rs 75/-

Camera – Rs 200/-

Video Camera – Rs 500/-

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